

State of Israel was founded, many Jews were victims of brutal violence by their Arab and Iranian neighbors and had to flee their homes. We mark this occasion to remember the horrific trauma those Jews experienced so that it is never repeated.

Today, very few of the ancient Jewish communities that dotted the Middle East survive. For centuries they lived largely at peace with their Muslim and Christian neighbors. Baghdad, Iraq was once the home to one of the region's largest Jewish communities. When the British entered Baghdad during the First World War, a third of the city was Jewish. Today, there is supposedly only five Jewish individuals remaining. This is shameful.

It is astonishing that in a region so rampant with anti-Semitism has so little interaction with the people they hate so much. Many Arabs and Iranians living today have never met a member of the Jewish community; therefore their hatred is based not on their own experiences, but what extremists and hatemongers have taught them. They forget that Jews were a vital part of their history, when Middle East was an incredibly diverse place. Today, it is a region of conflict and radicals, where historic Christian communities are also now endangered.

The story of the expulsion of entire Jewish communities from Arab lands is an important part of modern history that tragically affected the Jewish nation as a whole as well as the demographic composition of the Middle East and North Africa. This is a story must be told.

And that's just the way it is.

NEW FUNDS FOR FAMILY UNIFICATION PROGRAM

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 30, 2018

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority for receiving a nearly \$500,000 federal grant for housing vouchers under HUD's Family Unification Program.

These funds will help young people from Central Ohio who are at-risk of homelessness obtain affordable housing.

Last year, I was proud to spearhead the bipartisan effort calling on my colleagues to include \$20 million for the Family Unification Program in the transportation and housing appropriations bill, which was ultimately included in the government funding bill Congress passed earlier this year.

Throughout my time in Congress, I have fought for the housing needs of our Nation's most vulnerable populations, especially those transitioning from foster-care into adulthood and I am pleased to see federal funds designated to end youth homelessness being put to use in the Third Congressional District of Ohio.

HONORING PETER HOFFMAN

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 30, 2018

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a dedicated member of my staff, Peter Hoffman, for his work in my office and his service to our state.

Peter has worked for our team for a year and a half, first as a Press Assistant and Legislative Aide, then as Press Secretary, and finally as Communications Director in our Washington, D.C. office. He was responsible for all my official communications and media relations, which included writing press releases, speeches, opinion editorials and more. Peter also booked appearances for me on national and local media outlets and worked with me to implement a successful communications strategy.

On a personal note, Peter and I share a love of sports and that a belief God does an amazing job of keeping good people in our lives. I first met a far shorter Peter when he interviewed me as a Ball State freshman for the school newspaper. Since that time it has been fun to watch Peter grow physically, spiritually, and professionally. I have no doubt God has big things in store for his future.

I want to thank Peter for his friendship and his hard work in our office. I wish him continued success in all that God has planned for him and his family.

HONORING THE CAREER OF NEW YORK ASSEMBLYMAN BOB OAKS

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 30, 2018

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the illustrious career of New York Assemblyman Bob Oaks. Since 1992, Assemblyman Oaks has diligently represented the interests of Wayne, Oswego, and Cayuga Counties in Albany. Serving the 130th Assembly District, Assemblyman Oaks has always fought for his constituency's values in the State Legislature.

Assemblyman Oaks was born in North Rose, New York and grew up on a farm owned by his family for nearly five generations. He graduated from North Rose-Wolcott Central School in 1970, earned a political science degree from Colgate University in 1974, and then proceeded to complete his Recreation Administration master's degree from University of Montana in 1976. Upon completing his education, Assemblyman Oaks began his career as Assistant Director of the Continuing Education Program for the Greece Central School District.

After a five year stint as the Director of the Wayne County Youth Bureau, Assemblyman Oaks first reached public office in 1982 by winning the election for Wayne County Clerk. He held the office until 1992, when he won the 130th Assembly District seat and headed to Albany for the first time. Upon arriving in the State Legislature, Assemblyman Oaks prioritized strengthening the state economy and improving the competitiveness of New York agriculture.

Throughout his career in Albany, Assemblyman Oaks fought for the conservative values of decreased taxes and smaller government. Assemblyman Oaks' dedication to these causes resulted in his appointment to the Ranking Minority Member position on the Ways and Means Committee in September 2011. This role designated Assemblyman Oaks as the top Republican on tax issues in the State Legislature, allowing him to lead debate proposed tax legislation and any impacts such legislation may have on New York's budget.

Assemblyman Oaks was a part of the Republican leadership in the State Assembly in addition to his work on the Ways and Means committee. He served as the Deputy Minority Leader and was appointed by Minority Leader Brian Kolb to the Legislative Task Force on Redistricting in 2012. In each of these roles, Assemblyman Oaks shaped the Republican agenda in the State Legislature and ensured Assembly, Senate and Congressional district lines were fairly drawn across the state.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in celebrating the successful career of Bob Oaks in the New York State Assembly. Assemblyman Oaks always legislated with the best interests of his constituents in mind. Most importantly, his offices in Albany and the 130th District were always committed to ensuring his constituency had access to the services of the state government. I express my strong gratitude to Assemblyman Oaks for standing up for the values of Central New Yorkers throughout his career in Albany.

IN HONOR OF THE CENTRALINA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 30, 2018

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Centralina Council of Governments (CCOG) on their 50th anniversary.

Originally established in 1968, the Centralina Council of Governments is one of 16 such councils in the State of North Carolina, and one of several hundred regional planning organizations across the country. Formally named Central Piedmont Regional Council of Local Governments, Centralina was created by and for local governments to allow members to partner on projects impacting our entire region.

Today, Centralina Council of Governments serves local communities covering nine counties and 74 municipalities, representing nearly two million people in the greater Charlotte region, which includes Cabarrus, Rowan and Stanly Counties in my district. They are experts at balancing the needs of smaller rural towns, growing suburban areas and Charlotte itself—quite a feat when you consider the different challenges each type of community faces.

CCOG assists local governments in coordinating sound regional development plans and provides a forum to address issues best handled through regional cooperation, planning and action. CCOG also provides a variety of services for our region including the administration of state and federal grants in the areas

of aging, workforce development, economic development and planning. The council also provides technical assistance services to local government members and other organizations in the areas of regional planning, transportation, energy and environment, local government assistance, and business resources.

In short, Centralina COG is dedicated to helping one of the fastest-growing regions in the nation find innovative solutions to both existing and future challenges and to unifying the region's collective resources to help grow the economy and jobs, improve the quality of life and control the cost of government.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in wishing a happy 50th anniversary to the Centralina

Council of Governments and congratulations on decades of a job well done.

HONORING MOLLY NEWELL

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 30, 2018

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a longtime member of my staff, Molly Newell, for her work in my office and her service to our state.

Molly has been on our team for nearly five years now, serving in several capacities in our

Washington, D.C. office. She started as our staff assistant, where she was responsible for coordinating our constituent mail program, managing our office intern program, and processing tour requests. She now serves as a Senior Legislative Assistant, where she is responsible for advising me on a variety of policy issues, including foreign affairs, healthcare, energy, workforce development, armed services, and veterans' affairs.

On a personal note, Molly is a kind soul, with a positive spirit and big smile. I am proud to call her my friend. I would also like to thank her for her hard work in our office. I wish her and Elliott continued success in all remains ahead for their family.